

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Brooks et al.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,995,780 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 12, 2018**

(54) **TRAILER LIGHTING OUTAGE DETECTION CIRCUIT**

(71) Applicant: **Grote Industries, Inc.**, Madison, IN (US)

(72) Inventors: **Timothy W. Brooks**, Madison, IN (US); **Eric Thorstensen**, Madison, IN (US); **Christopher Busse**, Madison, IN (US)

(73) Assignee: **Grote Industries, Inc.**, Madison, IN (US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 87 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/882,779**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 14, 2015**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2017/0109997 A1 Apr. 20, 2017

(51) **Int. Cl.**

**G08B 21/18** (2006.01)  
**G01R 31/00** (2006.01)  
**B60Q 11/00** (2006.01)  
**H05B 33/08** (2006.01)  
**G01R 31/44** (2006.01)  
**B60Q 1/30** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ..... **G01R 31/006** (2013.01); **B60Q 1/305** (2013.01); **B60Q 11/005** (2013.01); **G01R 31/44** (2013.01); **H05B 33/0893** (2013.01); **B60Q 2900/10** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
CPC ..... G08B 21/185; B60Q 11/005; G01R 31/44  
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

6,843,589 B1 1/2005 Dhillon  
7,710,253 B1 \* 5/2010 Fredricks ..... B60Q 11/005  
315/76

2002/0093820 A1 7/2002 Pederson

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DE 3911896 A1 7/2002  
DE 10215486 10/2003

\* cited by examiner

*Primary Examiner* — Hongmin Fan

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty, McNett & Henry LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A vehicle LED lighting outage detection circuit is disclosed for detecting a fault in the LED light and automatically increasing the power drawn from the light power supply in response to the fault. A complementary detection circuit is also disclosed for detecting the increased power draw and signaling a fault to an operator. The increased power draw can be selected to be in the form of a pulse that settles to a lower power draw state after a time to avoid excessive and wasteful power draw. The system can be mounted in a vehicle and, more particularly, to a semi-tractor truck, or installed as a retrofit system into an existing semi-trailer system.

**11 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets**

